

Astoria Newspaper Index Project

of the
ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
450 Tenth
Astoria, Oregon 97103
325-6581

THE PROBLEM

Over the years,
hundreds of fruit-

less hours have been spent by dozens of authors, genealogists, historians, library staff, radio and newspaper reporters, state and federal officials, and many others — squinting at the microfilm screen or pawing through brittle yellow papers. Anyone hoping to find a shred of information on the history of a house, a departed relative, a list of local officials, the founding of a club or business, the dates of memorable mud slides, weddings, elections, and shipwrecks is looking for the haystack's needle. A library with no card catalog or computer terminal to aid in using its book collection would be deficient. A library which saves newspapers or other records must face harsh judgment if it makes no attempt to facilitate their use.



THE SOLUTION

The official compilation of ASTORIA

PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY AND REGULATIONS approved in 1977 by the Library Board states: "Indexing the local newspapers and other historical publications is an official goal of the library."

Therefore, for the last three years, small amounts for indexing have been budgeted to insure that steady progress will be made towards the goal. In addition, gifts and grants are sought.

Oregon State Library has in both 1978 and 1979 awarded \$3,000 towards the project. Astor Library Friends Association has given \$1,000. A dear friend volunteers an average of 68 hours per month typing, filing, and indexing The Daily Astorian and its predecessors.

As of December 1979, years completed are 1873-1890 and 1970-1979. Unfortunately, there are many lost issues in the earlier years. When daily papers are unavailable, weekly editions are used.

THE FORMAT

Like the main card catalog,

the newspaper index combines names and subjects. The 19th century file is in the Astorian area. The 20th century file is in the processing room for convenience in filing new cards. Users are gladly admitted.

In the following examples, newspaper title abbreviations and page numbers are omitted.

PEOPLE

Obituaries of local people, weddings,

election to office, major awards and/or recognition, business news, major controversies, crimes, and accidents.

Abercrombie, L.R. - started logging camp on Lewis & Clark; 4-28-1888

Abrahamson, Stephen - married Ida Kaupinen; 2-24-1884

Adair, William B. - elected clerk of upper Astoria school district; 3-7-1880

Aho, Alma - (obit) born 11-10-1887 in Finland; 7-9-76

Ahola, Jill - Girls State delegate (pic); 5-1-72

Allen, Hal - takes over Columbia Press again; 4-3-78

Anderson, Arthur L. - fisherman teaches marine technology at college (pic); 11-24-70
(obit) 3-26-73

PLACES

Astoria Column - closed as repairs begin; 2-23-76

Clatsop County Airport - coordination of rescue efforts in a crash responsibility of Port; 5-12-75

Clatsop Plains - ban on new septic tank permits, 4-4-77

Columbia River - M. Welch swims across river; 8-18-75

Columbia River Bar - no playground; one of the most dangerous in world; 8-31-79

Dams. Bear Creek - Corps specialists check dam; 12-15-77

Dune Meadows Park - dedicated to memory of L. Miller; 11-10-75

Fort Canby - new name for Cape Disappointment station; 2-13-1875

Fort Clatsop - Condition of old fort; 7-15-1873

Fort Stevens - B.C. Kindred deeds sufficient realty to U.S. for life-saving station to be built; 11-26-1887

Gearhart - a romantic and attractive town on the shores of the Pacific; 7-27-1890



BUSINESSES

Opening, closing,
or major event.

- AMAX - wants to start building in three months; 8-25-70
Antique Stores. Michael's - M. W. Foster opens on 12th St.
12-24-70
Apartments & Condominiums. Astor House. Approved by
City Planning Commission; 9-6-73
Architects - C. H. Bain & A. W. Ferguson (ad); 3-3-1877
Beauty Shops - Mrs. E. McGregor opens business (ad)
4-7-1877
Columbia Lutheran Charities - purchases St. Mary's Hospital;
2-19-70
Construction Companies. Harry Claterbos - awarded contract
for highway and railroad track around new power house
at Bonneville Dam; 6-1-76
Crown Zellerbach - celebrates centennial; 7-16-70
Daily Astorian - switches to photo-offset printing method;
9-28-70
Dairies - Rohne herd tops in NW Oregon milk production;
3-13-74
Department Stores. J.C. Penney - Wentworth to retire;
1-15-75
Fish Canneries - 18 canneries on Columbia put up 428,780
cases of salmon; 5-30-1879
Gunsmiths - ad for A.G. Spexarth's gun and fishing gear
business; 5-25-1883



GOVERNMENTS

Only final decisions
are indexed. Elec-

tions are found in Elections, 19_____, etc., after the vote.

- Astoria City Charter - state enacts charter for town;
10-28-1876
Astoria City Council - Mayor Trullinger's annual message,
1-15-1887
Astoria City Council - A. Swanson and D. Law elected, 11-8-72
Astoria City Police Dept. Reserves - recently reformed,
8-28-74
Clatsop County Commissioners - Clatsop Plains proposed
land-use plan approved; 10-12-79
Clatsop County Courthouse - history of building; 8-9-74

ORGANIZATIONS

Major events and
elections

- American Bible Soc. Clatsop County - J.Q.A. Bowlby elected
pres; 10-26-1878
- Astoria Rifle Team - composed of ladies and men; 9-7-1879
- Astoria Golf & Country Club - 50th anniversary celebrated;
6-28-74
- Astoria Regatta Assn. - Hashim Shawa agrees to serve as
pres; 11-24-76
- Beta Sigma Phi. Gamma Alpha Chapter - Audrey Hauke,
Valentine Girl (pic); 2-2-73
- Boy Scouts of America - Lovell describes Scout jamboree;
8-26-75



MISCELLANEOUS

Items of interest
and good photos.

- Aids to Navigation - automatic whistling buoy placed on
bar; 5-11-1878
- Accidents. Boating - 8 missing in worst charter boat mishap;
9-14-76
- Art Exhibits - Bikecentennial photos at library; 8-6-76
- Aurora Borealis - northern lights visible in area; 8-29-78
- Authors. Ken Kesey - visits Astoria (pic); 5-27-74
- Beachcombing - Okinawan burial urn found by R. Staszek;
4-10-70
- Beer - Olympic Brewing Co. films in local spots (pic); 12-2-77
- Bees & Beekeeping - J. Sarkie discusses his apiary (pic);
8-2-77
- Bicycles - new bike paths; 6-10-77
- Birds - thousands attack gillnet boats (pic); 9-17-71
- Boatbuilding - biography of Joe Dyer 6-12-75
- Bridges. Astoria - bridge inspector found guilty of bribery;
11-10-70
- Bridges. Walluski - An angry Mr. Koch destroys bridge;
7-30-1884

RESTRICTIONS

Naturally, if indexing were complete for every article, progress would be slow indeed. Items usually not included are: sports, editorials, letters, columnists (except local history), small social activities, public notices, advertisements, engagements (unless there is a picture). Articles and obituaries not of a local nature are not included. Statewide news may be accessed by consulting indexes kept by Oregon State Library, Library Association of Portland, and other research centers. National and international news may be approached through normal bibliographic tools, especially the index to the NEW YORK TIMES from 1950 at Clatsop Community College library.

THE COLLECTION

In about 1960, University of Oregon Library began the mammoth project of microfilming all surviving Oregon English language newspapers. With the cooperation of the Oregon Historical Society, The Astorian-Budget Publishing Co., and the Astoria Public Library, all have been filmed for this area and are on file here. We also have the Portland OREGONIAN, 1970-1976 and census films, 1850-1900. Microfilms may be read at the opaque screen near the circulation desk or on the 3M machine in the back room which can make prints.

